

Gibney, Rev. W. E.

re speech to Ministerial Association,

Feb. 1916  
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February 23rd, 1916

Rev. W. E. Gilroy, B.A.,  
75 West Avenue North,  
Hamilton.

My dear Mr. Gilroy:

Many thanks for your letter. I did not expect any one to meet me on Monday morning, as the Secretary had given me full instructions and I did not tell him on what train I should arrive.

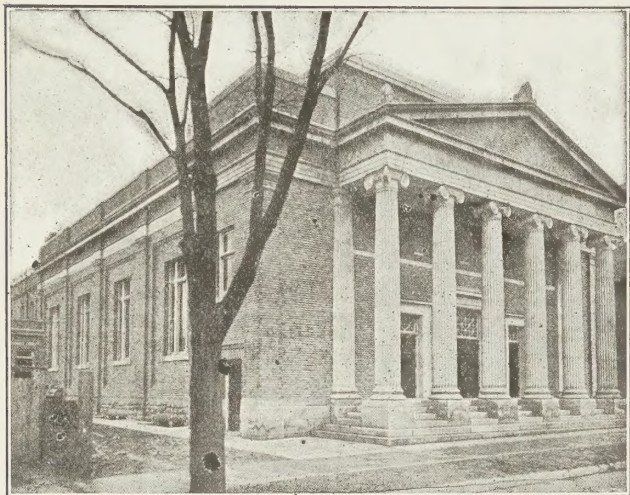
It was very kind of you to write so appreciatively of what I said. It was perhaps <sup>a pity</sup> that the discussion centred upon a very side issue, but probably I may have packed too much detail, as I usually do, into what I had to say. However, if I left an impression as to the necessity of our being somewhat subdued in our talk I think that my paper will have served a good purpose. We shall suffer more from an undue optimism that has been so universal in the last few years than from the quiet facing of the facts.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.





# First Congregational Church

200 Main St. E. Hamilton, Ont.

Pastor: Rev. M. E. Gilroy, B. A.

Phone 3970.

Pastor's Residence, 75 West Ave. N. Feb. 22 1916

Dear President Falconer:

I feel I owe you an apology for the seeming discourtesy of there being no one to meet you and guide you to the Ministerial Association, yesterday. The members of the Program Committee, of which I am chairman, each became responsible for the inviting of certain speakers; and thus far each member had met those whom he had invited. I regret that a slight misunderstanding as to arrangements occasioned the lack of a proper welcome. I need hardly assure you, however, of our great satisfaction at the acceptance of our invitation, and of our thorough appreciation of your address. This was evident not so much in the formal vote of thanks, as in the fact that the meeting was one of the largest I have ever seen in the five years during which I have been a member.

Personally, I was somewhat sorry that the



discussion turned to matters of secondary interest and importance to the neglect of the main and truly important questions suggested. Perhaps this was due to the fact that while most of us have to find some practical and working basis we feel a measure of incompetence in the discussion of the ultimate nature and bearing of the issues defined in the paper. I am sure your treatment of them has been helpful and that we shall be encouraged to avoid alike a too complacent optimism and a dangerous hastiness in forming and expressing our judgments. I think we must feel that Canada has nothing to fear so much as the lack of leadership or the false leadership of its "intellectuals", and spiritually-responsible men. I am sure there was thorough sincerity in the sentiment expressed by our Association yesterday in appreciation of the fact that if Canada fails in this regard it will not be for any defect of zeal or vision on your part.

Yours Faithfully  
W.E. Gibroy